

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 INR-10 NSAE-00
FAA-00 L-03 NSCE-00 SS-15 PM-05 SP-02 /060 W
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O 212303Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1331

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 1557

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, EAIR, ECON, ETRD, BF, US

SUBJ: GCOB EXTENSION OF ELEUTHERA AIR FIELD

REF: (A) NASSAU 1274 (DTG 151346Z JUN 78); (B) NASSAU 1275
(DTG 151347 JUN 78); (C) NASSAU 1341 (DTG 212013Z JUN 78);
(D) STATE 151004 (DTG 141844Z JUN 78); (E) NASSAU 1454

1. CAPT. RUSSELL FREDRICK AND MR. JOHN REINERTSON, OSD/ISA,
AND EMBASSY OFFICIALS MET WITH GCOB EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, TOURISM,
WORKS, AND CIVIL AVIATION OFFICIALS JULY 21 CONCERNING THE
PROPOSED GCOB EXTENSION OF THE USN AIRFIELD, GOVERNOR'S HARBOUR,
ELEUTHERA.

2. GCOB OFFICIALS INDICATED THAT THEY HAD DETERMINED THAT
A TWO-THOUSAND FOOT EXTENSION TO EIGHT THOUSAND FEET TOTAL
RUNWAY LENGTH WOULD MEET THEIR NEEDS AND THAT TRANS-ATLANTIC
FLIGHTS (INCLUDING FLIGHTS FROM NEW YORK AND TORONTO) CARRYING
IN EXCESS OF 600 PEOPLE PER WEEK WERE ENVISIONED, DEVELOPING
TO 80,000 PASSENGERS PER YEAR WITHIN 18 MONTHS. THEY INDICATED
THAY HAD DC-8 (STRETCH), 727, DC-9, AND BAC-111 AIRCRAFT IN
MIND.

3. GCOB OFFICIALS ALSO INQUIRED AS TO WHETHER USN SEABEES
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COULD PERFORM ANY REQUIRED ENGINEERING SERVICES/CONTRACTOR
WORK ON A REIMBURSABLE BASIS.

4. USG OFFICIALS RE-EMPHASIZED USG POSITION THAT PERFORMING
REQUIRED STRENGTH TEST OF EXISTING RUNWAY (SAID TO TAKE THREE
MONTHS) AND CONSTRUCTION OF EXTENSION WERE GCOB RESPONSIBILITY
AND THAT USN SEABEES COULD NOT BE USED FOR COMMERCIAL OR

CIVILIAN PURPOSES. IT WAS EMPHASIZED THAT IF NEW CARRIERS (GCOB OFFICIALS MENTIONED CHARTERED US AND CANADIAN AIRLINES) WERE INVOLVED, A NEW CIVIL AVIATION AGREEMENT FOR THE FIELD WOULD HAVE TO BE ARRANGED SINCE PRESENT NAVFAC YEAR-TO-YEAR AGREEMENT ONLY PROVIDED RIGHTS FOR LOCAL BAHAMIAN CARRIERS.

5. GCOB OFFICIALS STATED THAT SINCE IT NOW APPEARED OBVIOUS THAT THE FIELD COULD NOT BE LENGTHENED IN TIME TO MEET GCOB COMMITMENT TO COMMERCIAL FIRMS TO HAVE SUITABLE AIRFIELD BY DECEMBER 1978 ON ELEUTHERA, THEY WISHED TO PURSUE ALTERNATIVE, INTERIM ARRANGEMENT FOR USE OF THE FIELD AS IS, WITH AIRCRAFT TYPES THAT MIGHT CURRENTLY BE ACCOMMODATED; I.E. 727, DC-9S, AND BAC-111. THEY REQUESTED THAT, IN THIS REGARD, A MEETING BE HELD IN NASSAU AT 1000 HOURS ON 27 JULY 1978 TO ADDRESS USG REQUIREMENTS FOR SUCH CIVILIAN USE OF THE FIELD, INCLUDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR MANNING THE TOWER, MAKING AVAILABLE CRASH EQUIPMENT, ETC., AS WELL AS BEGINNING THE COORDINATION REQUIRED FOR GCOB EXTENSION OF THE RUNWAY AND RENOVATION OF THE TERMINAL BUILDING.

6. USG OFFICIALS AGREED TO ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE MEETING JULY 27, POINTING OUT THAT USG PARTICIPANTS MAY NOT HAVE DEFINITIVE RESPONSES TO THESE ISSUES BY THAT DATE.

7. REQUEST DEPARTMENT AND DOD ADVISE WHETHER NAVY/DEFENSE OFFICIALS WITH APPROPRIATE CIVIL AVIATION AND TECHNICAL EX-CONFIDENTIAL

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PERTISE COULD BE AVAILABLE FOR 27 JULY MEETING. IF NOT, REQUEST DATE FOR SUBSEQUENT MEETING OR OTHER INSTRUCTIONS. SCHWARTZ

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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